

## APPENDIX A-14

CANADIAN WELFARE COUNCIL STAFF SUBMISSION ON  
"UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN THE 70'S"S U M M A R Y

(References in the text are to the CWC Submission)

Introduction

(para. 1-9): There is general agreement with most major proposals of the White Paper, many of them long-recommended by the Council (e.g., sickness and maternity provisions, higher benefits, extended coverage, income tax provisions) though with a number of specific reservations (see Section II below). But the chief concern is with some of the underlying philosophies, general principles and objectives of the White Paper: e.g., those related to the principles of universality and of meeting need. The White Paper claims that its revisions of the unemployment insurance program will be an important part of social development policies in this decade; the proposals must be assessed in this context.

I Broad IssuesThe Piecemeal Approach

(para. 7-8): Unemployment Insurance in the 70's has been issued in advance of the promised White Paper on social security and social development; thus it is difficult to judge its implications for "a coherent and efficient social policy in the 70's".

Functions and Objectives: How Feasible and Appropriate?

(para. 10-12) Problem of Need: An important objective of the White Paper is "benefits ... more on the basis of need ..." This has a limited context since a wage-related program cannot deal with actual need any more than wages can. Benefit rates on income up to nearly \$145 gross weekly earnings will bring below the poverty line even those not already there. Unemployment insurance cannot be expected and should not try to take care of family responsibilities; it must be considered in relation to other programs. Among these are (as recommended by the CWC) substantially increased family and youth allowances and some form of guaranteed annual income taking account of family circumstances.

(para. 13-20) Services to the Unemployed: Another and major objective is the use of manpower and other programs and services to improve employability of the individual. This Submission questions the effectiveness of present manpower services to do the required job; they have apparently not lived up to the expectations entertained for them. Review and strengthening of the services is urged. Concern is also expressed about the function of the